

Application Serial No. 10/612,475
Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
Art Unit: 3679

PATENT
Docket No.: 1945.185US01

In the Claims

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A coupler device for fluid transport, comprising:
a body including an outer surface being a circumferential outer sidewall, said outer sidewall having a first end and a second end with an opening extending through said first and second ends, said body defining a slot disposed proximate one of said first end or second end, said slot extending in a direction transverse to said opening and through said outer sidewall;
a latch assembly including at least one outer member being disposed on said body externally exposed of said outer surface and connected with an inner member being disposed through said slot, said outer member protruding from said outer surface and reciprocating with respect to said outer sidewall, said inner member ~~reciprocates~~ reciprocating within said slot and having an aperture corresponding with said opening, whereby said body ~~being is~~ is releasably connectable with a piece of fluid transport equipment through said inner member; and
an overmold portion formed on said outer sidewall of said body, ~~wherein the overmold portion is molecularly bonded to said body~~, said overmold portion defining a material molded over said body as an additional layer, such that said overmold portion is formed substantially about said outer sidewall, said overmold portion including a shroud portion partially covering said outer member of said latch assembly, said shroud portion being a ~~protruded structure wall~~ extending outward from the outer sidewall and adjacent and around said outer member of said latch assembly, said wall extending in a direction transverse to said outer surface, and said wall protruding from said outer surface at least a same distance as said outer member protrudes from said outer surface.
2. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 1, wherein said body including a connection means disposed at one of said first or second ends opposite said slot, whereby said connection means being connectable to a fluid transport system.

Application Serial No. 10/612,475
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3. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 2, wherein said connection means being a groove residing between said outer sidewall and said opening, said groove being a socket fitting.
4. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 1, wherein a part of said outer surface of said body having a recessed face disposed about said slot and extending in a direction along said outer surface toward said first and second ends.
5. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 4, wherein said recessed face being substantially planar, said recessed face being engageable with a portion of said outer member, said portion reciprocates with respect to said recessed face and over said slot.
6. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 1, wherein said opening of said body substantially being radially symmetrical.
7. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 1, wherein said body is constructed of a molded material, said molded material being more rigid than said overmold portion.
8. (Original) The coupler device according to claim 1, wherein said outer member of said latch assembly including an actuating member, a biasing member and a retaining member, said actuating member and said retaining member being connected at oppositely disposed ends of said inner member and outside said slot, and said biasing member being between said actuating member and said inner member, said biasing member being disposed on said outer surface over said slot and enabling said actuating member and retaining member to reciprocate with respect to said outer surface.
- 9.-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) The coupler device according to claim 7, wherein said body is an injection molded rigid plastic material.

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17. (Previously Presented) The coupler device according to claim 16, wherein said rigid plastic material is polypropylene.
18. (Previously Presented) The coupler device according to claim 7, wherein said overmold portion is an injection molded low tolerance material.
19. (Previously Presented) The coupler device according to claim 18, wherein said low tolerance plastic material is a soft thermoplastic rubber material.
20. (New) The coupler device according to claim 1, wherein the overmold portion is molecularly bonded to said body.